

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 is a detail perspective view of a portion of the reel shown in Figure 5 with a single guard mounted to the reel;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 3 with the following amended paragraph:

According to the present invention, the guards or strippers 50 are substantially straight elongate members, as shown in Figure 9. The guard 50 includes a first tapered end 52 and a second end 54 having a corner portion. Mounting holes 56 provide for mounting at the top and bottom of the head 22. The mounting holes 56 are spaced ~~apartment~~ apart from the tapered end 52. The mounting holes 56 may be countersunk or counter bored to accommodate mounting hardware so that the head of the hardware is not protruding beyond the surface of the guard 50. A smooth surface provides for better operation and less likelihood of debris catching on the hardware. The guard 50 is a substantially planar plastic member in one embodiment, such as polyethylene and may be made from an ultraviolet resistant material. In one embodiment, the guards 50 are made of an ultra high molecular weight polyethylene. Such guards provide improved flexibility without damaging augers or choppers, should portions break off. A typical guard may have a length of 50 inches, with 5 and 5/8 inches of the guard forming a tapered end 52. A typical guard may have a width of 1.875 inches and a thickness of .375 inches. The mounting holes 56 at the tapered end 52 may be spaced apart by 3 inches and the mounting holes at the second end 54 may be spaced apart by 2.5 inches. On a 9 foot, 6 inch head, such as may be used in a typical crop harvester device, as shown in Figure 5, thirty two guards 50 are utilized to provide a flexible shield to the inner components of the head 22.